



Helping Small Businesses on Main Street

The locally owned businesses on Main Street are the heart of our small towns. That's why I authored a law to help keep and bring jobs to our small-town commercial districts. The Main Street Investment Fund provides grants to help small towns and local businesses make the improvements needed to attract customers and improve their bottom lines.



New Manufacturing Center at QVCC

This past session, I led a successful effort to designate Quinebaug Valley Community College as a Manufacturing Technology Center. This represents a major victory for manufacturing and jobs in Northeast Connecticut. We often hear from businesses that they want to hire more people but lack well-trained candidates. The mission of the Center will be to offer a variety of training programs for displaced workers, returning veterans, technical high school students and traditional college students.



Local Businesses Win State Jobs Support

Small businesses in Killingly, Mansfield, Thompson and Windham have benefited from the Jobs Bill, receiving state assistance to create new jobs and expand the local economy. Meanwhile, another 500 firms have also applied to take part in this job-creating program.



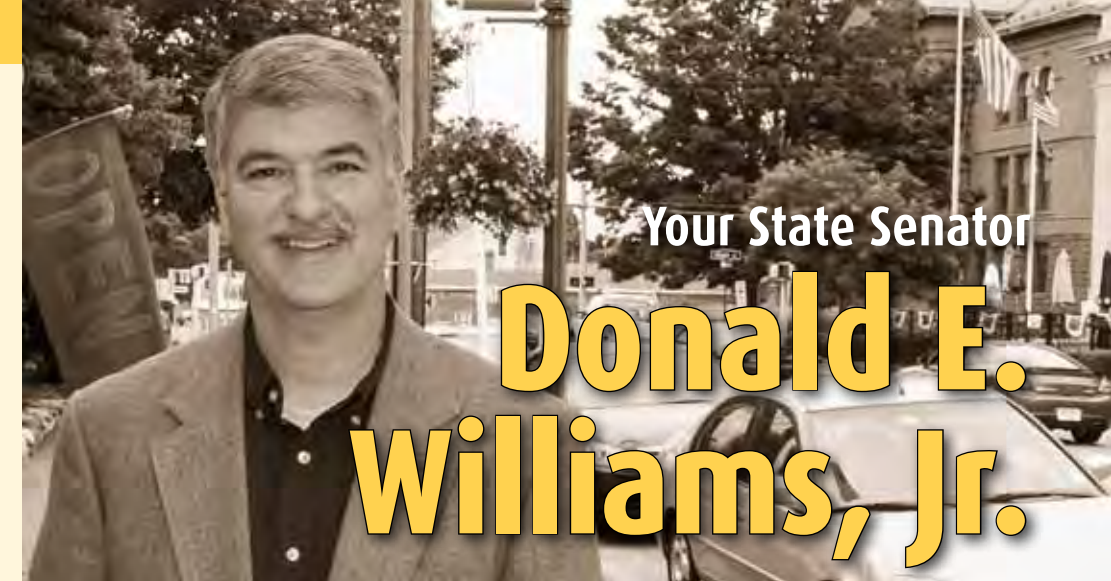
Community Success at TEEG

I recently stopped by the Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group's (TEEG) new building a few weeks after the grand opening to see how they were settling in. I got an update from TEEG Building Committee Chairman John Rice, who praised the great support of the community in volunteering countless hours of time. I'm proud to have played a part in securing state funds to help in the building project.



A New Ellis Tech

Envisioning the future automotive center at Ellis Technical High School in Danielson with Principal Brian Mignault. I was pleased to see progress on the new Ellis Tech—a project I championed and guided through state approval. This school's expansion and renovation is for students as well as employers in Northeast Connecticut. Our vo-tech high schools represent one of the original "school choice" options for students.



Your State Senator

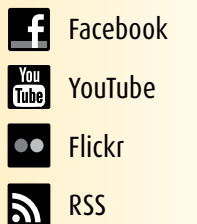
Donald E. Williams, Jr.

Representing the residents of
Brooklyn, Canterbury, Killingly, Mansfield,
Putnam, Scotland, Thompson & Windham

Legislative Office Building • Room 3300 • Hartford, CT 06106-1591
860-240-8600 • 1-800-842-1420
www.SenatorWilliams.cga.ct.gov



Visit me on the Web
to contact me, sign up
for my e-newsletter,
or follow me on:



PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HARTFORD CT
PERMIT NO. 3937



Listening to Tim McNally of B.C.S. Company in Thompson talk about the needs of small businesses in the Quiet Corner.

Your State Senator Donald E. Williams, Jr.

Resources

In addition to our work this session, last October we passed a historic, bipartisan Jobs Bill to help small businesses and workers by improving access to capital, job training and education. Below is a list of programs and contact information that could benefit you or someone you know.

- **Job Expansion Tax Credits** for small businesses: www.decd.org
- **Small Business Express Package** to get funding for your small business: www.decd.org, or contact Michelle Lugo at 860-270-8052 or michelle.lugo@ct.gov
- **STEP-Up** (Subsidized Training & Employment Programs) provides worker training subsidies for small businesses and small manufacturers: contact Rina Bakalar at the Office for Workforce Competitiveness, 860-263-6523 or rina.bakalar@ct.gov
- **Connecticut Reemployment Portal** if you have recently lost a job and are looking for work: www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/CTReP
- **Job & Career ConneCTion** for details on job and training programs: www.ctjobandcareer.org

To learn more, visit: www.senatedems.ct.gov/GrowJobs



With Youth Health Service Corps students who were hosting an event called Lock-Out Homelessness at Willi Bowl in North Windham.

Education Reforms

Every child deserves a first-class education. That's why we worked with teachers, education advocates and Governor Malloy to pass a historic education reform plan. It provides interventions and innovative new strategies for high-need schools and support for children and families. It invests in communities and promotes high-quality teaching in the classroom. The new law provides:

- Funding for 1,000 new early childhood slots
- Increased support for new and existing Family Resource Centers
- 20 new or expanded school-based health centers
- Kindergarten through third-grade reading programs
- Innovative approaches to teaching English Language Learners
- Additional Education Cost Sharing funding to school districts across the state

Strengthening Storm Response



In response to the two devastating storms that struck Connecticut last year, I voted for reforms that will better prepare us for future storms and minimize utility outages. The poor response from Connecticut's utility companies was a wake-up call; we've required the companies to be better prepared with minimum staffing requirements, tree-trimming standards and coordination between municipal and utility officials.



Relief at the Pump

This session I helped pass a comprehensive plan that caps the gross receipts tax by applying it to only the first \$3 a gallon when gas is sold on the wholesale market. The plan also strengthens protections against price gouging, cracks down on oil profiteering, and requires that savings from the cap get passed along to consumers.

We can't affect the price of oil on the international exchange—but we can give our Dept. of Consumer Protection and Attorney General tools to ensure large oil wholesalers don't unfairly gouge consumers.



A COMMITMENT TO
CREATING JOBS

Getting our state's economy back on track and helping folks find jobs remain my top priorities. While our economy isn't where we want it to be, Connecticut stands out as one of the few states that is investing in job training and job creation.

This year we expanded the bipartisan Jobs Bill that we approved last October. That means:

- Extending help to thousands of additional small and medium size businesses which will lead to more state manufacturers hiring, buying, training and expanding;
- Additional job-training support for post-9/11 combat veterans through the expansion of our new state STEP-Up Program;
- A Connecticut Treasures marketing campaign that promotes Connecticut's wealth of cultural, educational and tourist destinations;
- A stronger "First Five" business incentive program that encourages companies to move jobs from overseas back to Connecticut.



Talking about growing jobs with Marc Brown of KBE Building Corp. at the site of the future Quinebaug Valley Middle College High School in Danielson, a project I was instrumental in creating.